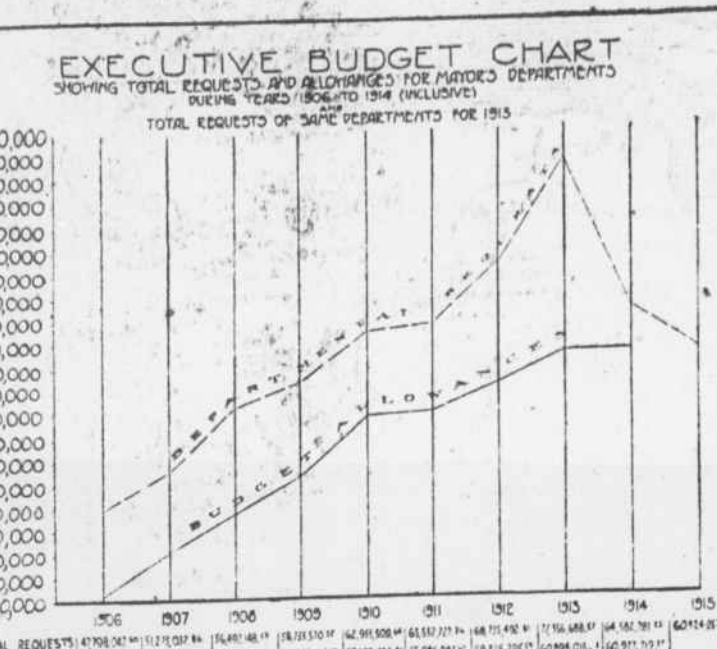


**V.**



\* And, it also provides for additional practical courses for the different hospital wards of the department and for a superintendent of women and a woman's physician at the workhouse, and a physician for the Boy's Reformatory. All these additions to staff are necessary in order that the Department of Correction may begin to cope with the urgent problem the drug traffic has placed upon its institutions.

The Department of Public Charities has requested an increase amounting to nearly \$300,000. This appropriation, if granted, will enable the department to construct and equip the proposed Greenpoint Hospital, and will also provide for the necessary improvements contemplated during



the estimates as submitted as heretofore. It is possible to point out further opportunities for economy through improvements of methods of adjustment of organization, we shall gladly and ourselves of carefully considered suggestions. Where reductions have been made below the allowances it has seemed wise to give to allow some latitude to the departments in the disposition of their funds, so that contemplated economies may actually be effected. This does not mean, of course, a relaxation of budgetary control. In the departments for which I have approved increases very careful consideration has been given to next year's needs and the allowance kept to what would seem to be the lowest amount consistent with proper service."

**T**HIS year the twenty-nine departments under the control of the Mayor will actually ask for less money than they were allotted last year. Never before in the annals of New York City has this been true. It is not easy for the taxpayer to realize all that this signifies—the determination and patience in fighting against obstacles, the study and research and the application of standards to service, the devising of new ways of doing things more efficiently. It has been accomplished in the face of the voter of legislators at Albany, who have nothing to do with New York City except to bind burdens upon the back of the taxpayers in the form of mandatory increases in salaries and new jobs. It means that the standard of efficiency which it represents will ultimately make itself felt in the tax rate, as well as in the improved morale of the civil service. It means that the drawing of slight drafts on the taxpayer without letting him know in advance for what he is paying is disappearing from the government of the greatest city in the country. It indicates that the American people are capable of remedying evils when they can put their fingers definitely upon the weak spots and that the blot on American political life can be wiped out.

be rendered by them will be largely increased. The Department of Docks and Ferries leads the list, with a reduction of \$283,957.92. The Police Department asks for \$68,000 less than it was allowed in the 1914 budget. The Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity finds that it is able to reduce its allowance \$53,362.75. The Park Department, Brooklyn, shows proportionately a larger decrease than any other department of the city in requesting \$54,884.23 less than it was allowed during the present year. A reduction of \$38,050 is shown in the Law Department's estimate for 1915. The total reduction in the budget estimates for the executive departments amounts to \$624,811.76.

Department.	Amount of increase.	P. C. of Inc.
Public Charities.....	\$22,000.00	7.5
Correction.....	12,918.56	7.7
Health.....	45,000.00	10.0
Street Cleaning.....	137,930.22	8
Licenses.....	5,000.00	2.8
Mayor.....	8,000.00	14.5
Park Board.....	900.00	3.0

As stated by the Mayor in his letter to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, these increases are principally due to extensions in the city's social service demanded by the growth in the number of city charges in the Departments of Charities and Correction, and by the wholesale extension of activity in the Department of Health.

The increases asked by the last named department are for additional medical inspectors and nurses for school inspection, three new milk stations; additional surgeons and dentists for clinics; inspectors for children in charitable institutions and more food and sanitary inspectors. While the increase sought by the Department of Correction is more than \$90,000 above that obtained last year, it is only about \$38,000 more than was granted the department in 1912, when the census of the institutions under its care was 500 less than it is to-day, an equivalent of one institution less. It makes provision for a superintendent of industries, for one more inspector for the penitentiary, for a confidential inspector for the Commissioner and for a warden at Rikers



For several years the Board of Estimate and Apportionment has been scrutinizing, much to the disgust and the discomfort of officeholders of the political stripe, the requests from the departments for cash. Each year the heads of the departments have found themselves forced to get along with less than they asked for. At last a point has been reached where the city will no longer accept a sight draft from department heads. It requires an itemized statement of what they propose to do with the money for which they ask and a good reason for the expenditure. It is now doing what the federal government taught it to do, making its appropriations out of its income. The Mayor's office this year has taken it upon itself, for the first time in the history of New York City, to assume the absolute responsibility for the expenditures of the twenty-nine departments which are included in its jurisdiction.

Mayor Mitchel has received the requests of his department heads for funds for 1910. In making them they were required to give a reason for any request.

The result is that the sum asked for is only \$60,924,657.69, a total ranging from \$2,000,000 to \$15,000,000 less than has been requested in any of the previous years since 1910 for the same executive departments. Indeed, the funds asked for are actually a few hundreds of dollars less than the amount voted last year.

What personal supervision of the details of the budget means is illustrated in the lengths to which the Board of Estimate and Apportionment has found it necessary to go in the past in order to bring it within bounds. The reductions since 1906 have ranged annually from \$7,000,000 to \$17,000,000, while, owing to strenuous work in keeping requests down to a point somewhere near the requirements, the reduction in 1914 was approximately \$3,600,000. The executive budget which has been prepared is based on actual needs, all non-essentials being eliminated, and is presented in a form that will make clear to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment that there has been no inflation on the theory that the board, will nilly, will make reductions. The result is that notwithstanding the mandatory duties and salaries imposed upon the city departments by the state Legislature and the development of the city and the municipal social service, the taxpayer will be asked to spend no more than he did a year ago, and the actual percentage of cost for taxable value will be less. This is unique, for in no other instance in the annals of budget making for New York City has the request for money been less than the actual budgetary allowance for the preceding year.

"The whole scheme," says the Mayor, "is to base the financial requirements of the city on a definite work programme, and to treat the various departments as elements of a single, whole institution, not as independent agencies making their arbitrary requisitions on an inexhaustible city treasury."

the coming year at Sea View Hospital on Staten Island.

Mayor Mitchel thinks the war may affect the expenses of the city in 1915. In the concluding paragraph of his letter he refers specifically to the Charities Department and the possible necessity for the revision of its estimates as a result of the European war. He says:

"The developments in Europe make imperative every possible economy. As a general policy of the city it will be necessary for us to carry on the current operations of the departments most conservatively and economically. Owing to the condition of the city debt, we shall presently be obliged to defray the cost of certain improvement from tax levy appropriations. But it must be borne in mind that the city may be called upon to assist many brought to distress by the unsettled condition resulting from the European war. If this occurs it may prove necessary to re-

vise the estimate for the Civilian's Department, which is based on a confidence in the census for 1911, already increased by some 2,000 over the census for 1910.<sup>11</sup>

The additional appropriation of \$5,000 requested by the Department of Licenses is for the purpose of establishing a free employment bureau for women. In the case of the Street Cleaning Department, in reality there is a reduction of several thousand dollars on the amount which was requested for the department's needs in 1914, and in addition provision has been made in the request for 1915 for increasing the rate of pay of the unskilled force, which will cost approximately \$275,000.

To make the foregoing increases possible, the Mayor explains that economies have been effected, not only in the departments concerned, but in practically all the remaining departments of the city government. Thus the Fire Department,

though it will organize twenty new fire companies, and extend the work of fire prevention, proposes to conduct "an increased business with \$25,000 less than it was allowed in 1914.

Other departments which ask for less than they received for this year are the Commissioners of Accounts; the Chamberlain; the Board of City Record; the Examiner, Board of Plumbers; the Department of Parks in The Bronx; the Department of Taxes and Assessments and the Tenement House Department. The total estimates for the Board of Ambulance Service; the Board of Assessors; the Board of Inebriety; the Department of Parks, Manhattan and Richmond, and of Queens, and the Bureau of Weights and Measures remain practically the same as the amounts allowed in 1914; although in every case extensions of work are planned beyond activities supported by the present allowances.

Mayor Mitchell criticises the Legislature for refusing to authorize the creation of a Division of Administration and a Central Purchasing Agency. He states that if the Legislature had passed the New York City bills establishing the latter two economies would have been effected and that a department, such as the proposed Division of Administration, would have greatly increased the business efficiency of the city government. It is to be hoped that the next Legislature will promptly authorize the creation of this department which the Mayor so strongly advises.

"Building upon the constructive work of the past few years, every department has sought to improve its methods and organization as rapidly as possible. Six months is not long enough to complete this work, nor to do more than make a substantial beginning. Some of our efforts to secure this improvement have been frustrated by the failure of the Legislature to grant necessary powers. Thus, we are still obliged to purchase the \$14,000,000 to \$15,000,000 of supplies bought each year through several scores of purchasing agencies when every one is agreed that a central purchasing agency along the lines followed by large corporations will effect vast economies."

In submitting his estimates to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment the Mayor emphasizes the fact that it is the sole purpose to develop the service of the city in conformity with public needs and to carry on existing activities without waste and unnecessary expenditure of public funds. He says:

"I wish to make it clear that we have not attempted an exhaustive analysis of the requests of the departments such as is made by the representatives of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Despite the care exercised in the formulation of the departmental requests, and though we have sought to reflect in the requests the benefit of all improvements in method which have been established or which are in process of establishment, I hope that the same degree of thoroughness in examination will be employed by the representatives of the board in reviewing

**T**HESE died in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens the other day a pigeon whose passing became an international news item. A keeper making his daily visit to the bird's cage found that the thread by which life had hung for weeks had snapped, and destruction this news

was sent out over the wires of the great press associations, for the loss of Martha, last of a vanished race, was as interesting to the world in some respects as the death of a potentate. She was the only known survivor of that species of pigeon known as the passenger, once so numerous that flocks containing countless millions often obscured the skies in great areas.

After twenty-nine years of life, many of them spent in solitary widowhood, the management of the gardens sought to lighten by means of a standing offer of £1,000 for a mate, she had succumbed to the weaknesses of age. And her stuffed body, turned over to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, became the last bit of evidence of the existence of a feathered population whose history has been traced by scientists since 1534. In that year Jacques Cartier, of St. Malo, master pilot of Francis I, King of France, passed into the Gulf of St. Lawrence seeking a waterway to India for his ruler. His notes form the first record of the story of the passenger pigeon, the final chapter of which is the chronicle of Martha's death.

Cartier made casual reference to the presence of the creature to be known later as the passenger pigeon near Cape Kildare, on Prince Edward Island. Later explorers noted its existence also. Pioneers who came afterward marvelled at it because of the magnitude of its flocks, and

then to students of bird lore in recent times it became an object of interest and mystery because of its complete disappearance. Among the latter have been historians who have written volumes about the bird.

Those who followed Cartier found the passenger pigeon in great numbers frequenting all of the vast forests of eastern North America. Feeding on the bushes, trees and fruits there, it multiplied until, by reason of the size of the flocks, it became a pest.

Then began a war of persecution and greed which is responsible for the extermination of the species.

"They darkened the sky like locusts," writes one early historian; "the hemisphere was never entirely free of them." "Their incredible multitudes were like thunder clouds in heaven," relates another, attempting to describe their migrations.

Featherstonhaugh, in 1844, visiting the South, related: "A new and very interesting spectacle presented itself in the incredible quantities of wild pigeons that were abroad; flocks of them many miles long, came across the country, one flight succeeding another, obscuring the daylight and in their swift motion creating a wind and producing a startling and rushing sound that cataracts of the first class might be proud of."

In 1819 Faux described a passenger pigeon roost which "is a singular sight in the thinly settled States, particularly in Tennessee in the fall of the year, when the roost extends over a portion of woodland or barrens from four to six miles in circumference. The screaming noise they make when thus roosting is heard at a distance of six miles; and when the beechnuts are ripe they fly two hundred miles to dinner in immense flocks."

"The birds roost on the high forest trees, which they cover in the same manner as bees in swarms cover a bush, being piled one upon the other from the lowest to the topmost boughs which, so laden, are continually bending and falling with their crushing weight, and presenting a scene of

confusion and destruction too strange to describe and too dangerous to be approached by either man or beast. While the living birds are gone to their distant dinner, it is common for man and animals to gather up or detect the dead that found in earthloam."

A man named Metcalf, who lives in the 90's, watched them coming on the Massachusetts Valley, reckoned the cross-section of an average flock at one hundred yards from forest to forest, and estimated it contained 8,000,000 birds to the mile, or 30,000,000 for a flock extending from one woodland to another. "Such flocks," he is quoted as saying, "passed repeatedly during the greater part of the day of chief flight at intervals of a few minutes. The average number of birds must have approached 120,000,000 an hour for five hours, or 600,000,000 pigeons virtually visible from a single point in the culminating part of a single typical migration."

The destruction of growing things by such enormous flocks, as well as the necessity for obtaining food, precipitated the slaughter begun by the Indians and continued by the white man that resulted in the disappearance of the passenger. The Indians invaded the roosts at night, and by setting fire to underbrush killed thousands of the birds.

The white trappers used a great net, under which the pigeons were lured by means of a bait or live captive decoy. Records of catches thus made between 1866 and 1876 indicated more than 10,000,000 pigeons a year were thus taken.

In 1888 David Whittaker, of Milwaukee, obtained a pair of young birds from an Indian in Wisconsin. In eight years fifteen birds were bred from these, six males and nine females. Of this flock, Professor C. O. Whitman, of Chicago University, obtained a small number, and in 1904 he had ten birds. His flock became weakened by captivity and inbreeding and gradually vanished. Of the original Whittaker flock only one remained—the female which has just died at the Cincinnati Zoo.

All the great powers of Europe have some-  
ward for conspicuous valor and bravery on the  
field of battle, and although the plain bronze  
Victoria Cross—of which many will doubtless be  
during the present campaign—is the youngest  
such decorations, dating back only to the  
Crimean War, in 1856, it is the most valued  
session in many a home in England to-day, the  
"Tit-Bits." The Austrian Cross, on the  
hand, is the oldest.

A similar reward in Germany is the Iron Cross instituted by the Emperor Frederick William of Prussia in the year 1813. Russia gives a decoration to its heroic soldiers the Cross of St. George, which was founded by the famous tsar George, which was founded by the famous tsar Catherine II in the year 1769, and while the Victoria Cross is of bronze and the Iron Cross its name implies, of iron (which is edged with silver), the Russian order is of gold, with a beautiful medallion of St. George killing the dragon. In Austria, again, the cross is of gold, and was instituted in the year 1757 by the Empress Maria Theresa soon after her accession to the throne. It bears the same inscription as the British Victoria Cross, which has in English "For Valour" and theirs in Latin the word "F. titulandi."

The Order of the Legion of Honor, which is a reward in France, was instituted by the great Napoleon, and he decreed that every soldier who was decorated—with that honor should have an additional distinction of being entitled to receive a military salute from officers, non-commissioned officers and private soldiers.

If you want to see a summer girl lean back  
tango upon her train.

Home—the place where you go after  
thing has shut up.